

BIRD NOTES FROM SOUTHERNMOST THAILAND, 1972

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During the period from June to mid-November 1972 the author served as a land classifier attached to a team of agricultural consultants surveying the southern land settlements of the Department of Public Welfare. Fieldwork was concentrated in the four contiguous settlements of Tharnto and Yala in Yala province and Prinyor and Narathiwat in Narathiwat province. This paper principally covers the area of these four settlements, with references where appropriate to the Satun area which was visited briefly in early June. However, an appendix contains a selection of records from the plains outside the settlement schemes, in the five southernmost provinces of the peninsula.

The period from June to September was spent mostly in Yala and Prinyor settlements, which lie south of Yala town and extend from the Pattani river at Bannang Sata in the west to the Sai Buri river near Rueso in the east. The boundary between these two settlements follows the provincial boundary. Tharnto lies along the Betong road south of Bannang Sata and was visited for a week in September. Ten days in October were spent at Narathiwat settlement which lies astride the Sai Buri some 25 kilometres south-west from Sungei Kolok and extends down to the Malayan border.

All the settlements lie in hilly and mountainous terrain with very little flat padi or grazing land. The mountains rise to over 1,000 metres but fieldwork was carried out only between 100 and 600 metres elevation. Primary dipterocarp forest is still extensive in the area but exploitation is progressing rapidly, and access into undisturbed forest is difficult. Most records are from logged forest and from areas of mature smallholder rubber. Rubber is extensive but being mostly poorly maintained seedling rubber, with frequent secondary growth and remnant forest trees, it is a quite rich avian habitat.

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The avifauna of the region is Malaysian in character and most species encountered were at least slightly familiar to the author who has previous experience from Brunei, Johore State in southern Malaya and North Sumatra. Equatorial forests do not reveal their secrets readily and the author gratefully acknowledges the experience learnt from more knowledgeable observers in Malaya, particularly in the field of bird calls (see TEESDALE, 1972, for work on babbler calls). A known call is often of greater value in identification than a sighting in the dim conditions of dense vegetation. Moreover many species, particularly babblers, can be induced to approach an imitation of the call or play-back from a tape recorder. Nevertheless extreme caution is necessary against placing too much reliance on calls. The pitfalls are well known but sometimes tend to be forgotten: mimicry is an obvious example, and another is the possibility of a species unknown to the observer having a call similar to that of a known species. Mixed feeding parties of babblers can be utterly confusing, since they tend to all call at the same time while flitting in and out of the undergrowth. Similarly many of the barbets have two or even three quite different calls, some of them diagnostic, others requiring caution.

Information on the distribution of many species listed below has been gained largely from calls, for most which a confirmatory sighting was eventually obtained. This information is of course biased by the differing song seasons of different species. Where a species has been identified by call alone, this has been clearly stated in the text; each has a diagnostic call.

The order follows that used by LEKAGUL (1968) while scientific names are taken from DEIGNAN (1963), and from GLENISTER (1951) for some Malayan forms. English vernacular names are taken from DICKINSON & TUBB (1964). The author is grateful to E.C. Dickinson and Dr. D.R. Wells for their advice and criticism.

SPECIES RECORDED FROM THE FOUR SETTLEMENTS

JERDON'S BAZA (*Aviceda jerdoni*)

Two or possibly more on October 18 at Narathiwat, in disturbed forest about 5 km from the Malayan border. The following description is that written up from field notes on the day of sighting:—

general shape rather cuckoo-like including slim body and tail but wings broader in flight than in a cuckoo. Size a little larger than most cuckoos, but considerably smaller than a Crested Honey-Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*). Pronounced long crest at back of crown, standing upright. Underparts white, with pronounced black stripes down throat and breast, beginning with one mid-ventral stripe on the throat. Equally pronounced black short bars across the belly and abdomen, but under tail coverts unbarred. On a second bird the barring and breast stripes were less pronounced and the white was tinged pinkish. Bill dark. Eye yellow. Upper parts not well seen but generally brown (certainly not black). The underwings were brown and fairly barred, without any pronounced white. Underside of tail alternately barred with several dark and light brown stripes, without white. The call note, freely uttered, was slightly reminiscent of a Violet Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*) and not at all raptorlike, being a thin, high "ti-wuet" repeated three or four times. The birds were observed in good light about mid-morning, perching in upper branches, sallying forth possibly for insects and then returning to a new perch.

BLYTH'S HAWK EAGLE (*Spizaetus alboniger*)

The only Hawk Eagles identified were adults of this species at Yala in June, appearing all black with a white breast.

LESSER FISHING-EAGLE (*Ichthyophaga nana*)

One at Prinyor on August 31, flying along a rocky river in forested submontane terrain.

SERPENT EAGLE (*Spilornis cheela*)

The commonest or most conspicuous raptor in all areas, readily identified in soaring flight by the broad white bar near the hind edge of wings and tail.

BLACK-THIGHED FALCONET (*Microhierax horsfieldii*)

Seen quite commonly in settled or open areas in Yala and Prinyor.

ROULROUL (*Rollulus rouloul*)

A party of three was reliably reported by a colleague on September 26, in forest by the Tharnto waterfall.

RED JUNGLEFOWL (*Gallus gallus*)

Moderately common in all areas, generally in old secondary bush.

GREAT ARGUS-PHEASANT (*Argusianus argus*)

Common in primary forest in all areas. Although never once seen, the calls are unmistakable and freely uttered, sometimes at night.

BARRED BUSTARD QUAIL (*Turnix suscitator*)

Common in lalang areas. Pair seen with chicks on June 17.

WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)

Seen at Tharnto, this being the only settlement having suitable terrain for this species.

LITTLE GREEN PIGEON (*Treron olax*)

Locally distributed in all areas. The few records (both sight and voice) were from both forest and areas of rubber with secondary growth. This was the only species confirmed and the scarcity of Green Pigeons is surprising.

PINK-HEADED FRUIT DOVE (*Ptilinopus jambu*)

A female seen in submontane forest at Yala in August. This species is readily overlooked, being quiet and unobtrusive and generally seen only when flushed from its perch.

GREEN IMPERIAL PIGEON (*Ducula aenea*)

Heard on two occasions, in Yala and Prinyor, the call being known from other countries in the Malaysian faunal region.

SPOTTED-NECKED DOVE (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

Rare in the settlements, the only records being of voice only, in Prinyor and Tharnto, and there is just possibility that these came from caged birds. This species was not seen commonly anywhere in the southern provinces.

ZEBRA DOVE (*Geopelia striata*)

Locally distributed in settled areas, occasionally extending along forest roads.

EMERALD DOVE (*Chalcophaps indica*)

Common in all areas, both in primary forest and in old rubber. The regularly repeated, rising, di-syllabic cooing note is characteristic.

BLUE-RUMPED PARROT (*Psittinus cyanurus*)

Generally rather local but common in a few areas, for example the settlement headquarters at Prinyor. (The absence of Parakeets, *Psittacula* sp., was perhaps surprising).

BLUE-CROWNED HANGING-PARROT (*Loriculus galgulus*)

Moderately common in all areas. It is possible that the author overlooked *L. vernalis* as this species has also been reported in the south.

INDIAN CUCKOO (*Cuculus micropterus*)

One was heard in the Satun area on my arrival early in June and colleagues reported that this call was heard commonly in that area earlier in the season. Evidently it ceased calling in June, but its presence in the settlements can be expected.

BANDED BAY CUCKOO (*Cacomantis sonneratii*)

This species began calling in early August and was then heard quite commonly in all areas, both in primary forest and old rubber. Although never seen, the calls are distinctive, the most typical call being a high, plaintive four-note whistle that slightly descends the scale; this is quite distinct from the loud and precise call of the previous species which has three notes on one pitch followed by a fourth note on a lower pitch.

PLAINTIVE CUCKOO (*Cacomantis merulinus*)

Moderately common in all areas in settled terrain, although the possibility that some of these were *C. variolosus* cannot be ruled out.

VIOLET CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*)

Seen in Yala in June and heard commonly in all areas in forested terrain. It is typically seen in dipping song flight above the canopy, the call being a thin "tiu-wit" uttered in rhythm with the flight path.

MALAY BRONZE CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx malayanus*)

One in a tree on the banks of the Pattani river at Ban Bang Rang, south of Bannang Sata, on June 30. Although not seen clearly, the field description is satisfactory: back and wings greenish, tail slightly graduated and dark on the upper surface with white spots on the outer feathers, underparts white strongly barred dark, face including forehead and upper breast greyish-white irregularly blocked and barred, red eye.

DRONGO CUCKOO (*Surniculus lugubris*)

Heard at Yala in mid-June (and previously heard commonly and once watched calling in the Satun area in early June). After June it became silent but it is likely to be common in all forested areas. The call is a distinctive 5 or 6 note whistle up the scale.

LESSER GREEN-BILLED MALCOHA (*Phaenicophaeus diardi*)

Two records only, both in secondary growth in Prinyor.

RAFFLES' MALCOHA (*Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*)

Common in all areas in primary and secondary forest. This is the only malcoha that the author has ever heard calling, in various parts of the Malaysian region, which may account for the frequency of its noted occurrence. The call is a series of rather strained, cat-like mews on a descending scale.

RED-BILLED MALCOHA (*Phaenicophaeus javanicus*)

One clearly seen in secondary growth in low hilly terrain at Narathiwat in October.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED MALCOHA (*Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*)

Moderately common, typically in secondary forest or old rubber.

GREATER COUCAL (*Centropus sinensis*)

Moderately common in all areas, in open terrain and forest margins. A possible Short-toed Coucal (*C. rectunguis*) was seen in Yala but could not be confirmed; this species should certainly be looked for and is reputed to have an identifiable call.

LESSER COUCAL (*Centropus toulou*)

Moderately common in all areas in long grass and scrub growth.

GREAT-EARED NIGHTJAR (*Eurostopodus* sp.)

The characteristic three-note whistle of the genus was heard occasionally, at dawn or dusk, at Yala and Prinyor but it is not known which species is involved. The call was very similar to that of *E. temminckii* heard in Malaya but the author is not familiar with the call of *E. macrotis*.

LONG-TAILED NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus macrurus*)

The very characteristic call of this nightjar was heard once only in the settlements, at dawn in Narathiwat in October. Colleagues reported that it was common in the Satun area earlier in the year.

[GREY-RUMPED SWIFTLET (*Collocalia inexpectata*)

The author is not conversant with this difficult group, but the common swiftlet of the settlements is a small, pale-rumped bird, probably of this species].

WHITE-BELLIED SWIFTLET (*Collocalia esculenta*)

Several records and probably moderately common in all areas. It is identified by its dark upperparts with a bluish sheen, lack of pale rump, and white belly.

[BROWN-THROATED SPINE-TAILED SWIFT (*Chaetura gigantea*)

A giant spine-tail seen at Prinyor on August 31 is likely to be this species].

SILVER-RUMPED SPINE-TAILED SWIFT (*Chaetura leucopygialis*)

Common in all areas.

HOUSE SWIFT (*Apus affinis*)

This swift was seen only once in the settlements, where there is little suitable habitat. Several were probably breeding beneath a bridge over the Pattani river south of Bannang Sata on August 1.

PALM SWIFT (*Cypsiurus parvus*)

Frequently seen in open terrain.

WHITE-WHISKERED TREE SWIFT (*Hemiprocne comata*)

Common in all areas, with parties of 20 to 30 birds roosting in single dead trees. A careful watch was kept for the Crested Tree Swift (*H. longipennis*) but its presence was never confirmed. This is in marked contrast to Southern Malaya and Northern Sumatra, where *H. longipennis* is the commoner species, in open country near forest, while *H. comata* is confined to forest clearings.

RED-RUMPED TROGON (*Harpactes duvaucelii*)

Trogons are often overlooked, being sluggish birds and only readily seen in the bird-waves or when calling. Nevertheless the apparent rareness of all the trogons was surprising, only this species being encountered, once at Prinyor (and also heard in the Satun area). The call is a short rapid cadence.

KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis*)

Occasional along rivers or streams, sometimes extending up small streams into forest margins.

STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER (*Pelargopsis capensis*)

Only one record from the settlements, along the Pattani river above Bannang Sata. In October it was seen quite commonly in the rice areas along the main road between Pattani, Narathiwat and Sungei Kolok, at the rate of about one bird every 10 kilometres (compared with about one per kilometre for *Halcyon smyrnensis*)

BANDED KINGFISHER (*Lacedo pulchella*)

Although never seen, the call was heard commonly in all areas, as well as the Satun area, generally in forest but also in old rubber. The author is familiar with the distinctive call of this species in Malaysia.

WHITE-BREASTED KINGFISHER (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)

Very common in open country in all areas.

BAY-HEADED BEE-EATER (*Merops leschenaulti*)

Commonly seen in small parties in Prinyor in August and September, but its status in the area is not known.

BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER (*Merops philippinus*)

A very common winter visitor or passage migrant, probably arriving in early September but they were not confirmed until early October, from which time they were also common at Songkhla.

BLUE-THROATED BEE-EATER (*Merops viridis*)

Locally distributed in all areas but not very common.

RED-BEARDED BEE-EATER (*Nyctyornis amictus*)

Common in all areas in forest and sometimes old rubber.

RED-BILLED ROLLER (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

Locally distributed in all areas, in cleared areas and partially settled terrain.

BUSHY-CRESTED HORNBILL (*Anorrhinus galeritus*)

Small parties encountered occasionally in all areas, chiefly in forest but also in old rubber. More often heard but the call can be confused with Pied Hornbills.

WRINKLED HORNBILL (*Rhyticeros leucocephalus*)

One record only, of a pair seen in hilly forest at 500 metres in Yala in August.

WREATHED HORNBILL (*Rhyticeros undulatus*)

Common in all areas, usually in pairs or very small parties. A careful watch was kept for Blyth's Hornbill (*R. plicatus*) but every bird examined had the black bar across the gular pouch. Having a quieter call than other Hornbills this species is less obtrusive.

BLACK HORNBILL (*Anthracoceros malayanus*)

Rare or very local, in contrast to its commonness in Southern Malaya. The only records were of a few, in two's or three's, in October, very close to the Malayan border in Narathiwat settlement.

SOUTHERN PIED HORNBILL (*Anthracoceros convexus*)

Pied Hornbills were only certainly identified in the area of the limestone hills near Bannang Sata; probably they are moderately common but not readily distinguished from the Bushy-crested by voice alone. The only bird examined closely was of this species.

RHINOCEROS HORNBILL (*Buceros rhinoceros*)

Common in all areas and often noisy, in pairs or small parties.

GREAT HORNBILL (*Buceros bicornis*)

A few records from Yala and Prinyor of single birds or pairs. The call is very similar to that of *B. rhinoceros*.

HELMETED HORNBILL (*Rhinoplax vigil*)

A common, noisy bird in Yala and Prinyor, favouring the more hilly areas. The call builds up to the laughing cadence for which this bird is famous. This call was heard on most days in June and July, but the birds became silent towards the end of August, which is the probable reason why it was not recorded in Narathiwat in October.

LINEATED BARBET (*Megalaima zeylanica*)

This barbet is evidently a bird of comparatively open country for it was found only along the Pattani river south of Bannang Sata and the Sai Buri river near Rueso. At these localities however it was common and noisy.

GOLD-WHISKERED BARBET (*Megalaima chrysopogon*)

Common in all areas in forest, possibly favouring the hillier terrain. It was also heard in the Satun area.

MANY-COLOURED BARBET (*Megalaima rafflesii*)

The rarest of the barbets encountered, in marked contrast to its abundance in southern Malaya. Indeed there was only one recorded, by voice alone, in October, close to the Malayan frontier in Narathiwat settlement.

GAUDY BARBET (*Megalaima mystacophanos*)

Common in Yala and Prinyor, and also heard in the Satun area. The lack of records from Narathiwat in October is probably not significant.

YELLOW-CROWNED BARBET (*Megalaima henricii*)

Common in Yala and Prinyor, though less so than the Gold-whiskered and Gaudy Barbets. Again the lack of records from Narathiwat in October is probably not significant.

LITTLE BARBET (*Megalaima australis*)

Common in all areas.

COPPERSMITH BARBET (*Megalaima haemacephala*)

Sparsely distributed owing to its preference for settled terrain, but occurring in all areas. Unlike most of the other barbets described, this is not a forest bird.

BROWN BARBET (*Calorhampus fuliginosus*)

This barbet is unobtrusive and generally silent and is readily overlooked. A few small parties were seen in Yala and Prinyor, in forest and once in old rubber, and it is probably common. They are almost always seen in small parties. The thin, squeaky whistle was heard once, and is quite unlike the calls of other barbets.

RUFIOUS-BREASTED PICULET (*Sasia abnormis*)

Good views of a male were obtained at Yala, in old mixed rubber.

ORANGE-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Chrysocolaptes validus*)

Moderately common, in both forest and old rubber.

[GOLDEN-BACKED WOODPECKER (-)]

Several were seen in settled areas but it could not be confirmed whether these were *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* or *Dinopium javanense*.

GREAT SLATY WOODPECKER (*Mulleripicus pulverulentus*)

Moderately common. On July 22 a pair was seen at a nesting hole in an isolated dead tree although it was not established whether they were breeding at the time. The loud winny-ing call is very distinctive. It is principally a forest bird.

WHITE-BELLIED BLACK WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus javensis*)

Only two certain records, in rubber at Yala and in a partially felled area at Narathiwat.

RUFOUS WOODPECKER (*Micropternus brachyurus*)

A record from Prinyor and another from the Satun area. Possibly it is fairly common.

CRIMSON-WINGED WOODPECKER (*Picus puniceus*)

The three *Picus* woodpeckers described here require good views for identification, but an observer's personal identification key, especially of the distribution of colours in the head region, is a valuable tool. The present species is perhaps the commonest of the three, but it is not safe to draw conclusions on relative abundance since many pass unidentified. All are essentially forest birds.

CHEQUER-THROATED WOODPECKER (*Picus mentalis*)

Several records and probably common.

BANDED RED WOODPECKER (*Picus miniaceus*)

Only one certain record, from Narathiwat.

FULVOUS-RUMPED WOODPECKER (*Meiglyptes tristis*)

Several records of small parties in logged forest at Prinyor and probably quite common. A pronounced crest (barred and without red) is generally seen, a feature omitted from most of the literature. This crest can be raised at will, as in the Grey-and-Buff Woodpecker, so is not necessarily always apparent in the field. Both these woodpeckers as well as *M. tukki* commonly perch across the branch in passerine fashion.

BUFF-NECKED WOODPECKER (*Meiglyptes tukki*)

Several records from Yala and Prinyor, in both forest and old rubber, and probably quite common. The author has never seen a crest on this species.

PYGMY PIED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos canicapillus*)

A few records from open areas in the settlements but never seen clearly. However, in view of the possible occurrence of *D. moluccensis*, these records should be treated with caution.

GREY-AND-BUFF WOODPECKER (*Hemicircus concolor*)

A few records from logged forest and probably quite common. It should be noted that the crest is red in the male only.

MAROON WOODPECKER (*Blythipicus rubiginosus*)

Two records only although it may be not uncommon.

DUSKY BROADBILL (*Corydon sumatranus*)

The author is familiar with the call of this broadbill, from Malaya and Sumatra. This call was heard not infrequently in all areas, and clearly at close range in Narathiwat, but a sighting was never obtained.

BLACK-AND-RED BROADBILL (*Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus*)

Three records from rubber and secondary growth in Yala. Although not always silent, this bird lacks the diagnostic calls of the other broadbills and hence may be commoner than is often apparent. None of the broadbills are very readily seen.

BANDED BROADBILL (*Eurylaimus javanicus*)

The author never obtained a sighting of this broadbill in Thailand but the call was heard commonly in all areas. It is perhaps slightly less common than the next species. The call, once known, is diagnostic, consisting of a sharp opening note followed instantly by a run of notes at constant speed, rising slightly in pitch except at the end. By contrast, the call of *E. ochromalus* is at nearly constant pitch, rising only very slightly and begins slowly, steadily gathering speed.

BLACK-AND-YELLOW BROADBILL (*Eurylaimus ochromalus*)

Commonly heard in all areas. On July 14, a pair was seen at a nest, a large, untidy bulbous structure of grasses, suspended from a small branch mid-way up a medium-sized forest tree in old rubber on a low ridge crest.

GREEN BROADBILL (*Calyptromena viridis*)

Common or moderately common, in forest. The call is short and sharp, with the timbre of a bouncing stone, the first note pronounced and the others tailing off.

GARNET PITTA (*Pitta granatina*)

This bird was heard commonly and seen three times, near the track through logged forest running up the hill from the resthouse at the Prinyor settlement headquarters, while the observer was stationed there between August 22 and September 10.

Although the first that the observer has ever encountered, a pitta was suspected from the call, a sharp, monotone whistle that can be imitated readily (compare this call with that of the Rail Babbler, *Eupetes macrocerus*). The whistle is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ seconds long, uttered at intervals of 10 to 15 seconds when calling regularly, but often with much greater intervals. On each occasion it was seen very briefly only after an hour of patient stealth and whistling. The bird was clearly intrigued by the imitation, but would tantalize by approaching close but always hidden from view in the dark undergrowth of the forest. Probably it saw the origin of the imitations and it would then wander right away, so that a further period of stealthy following would be required. The views obtained were very brief. On the first occasion it flitted across a fallen log, perching for a second, and was seen to be blue generally (it is in fact a purplish colour) with a very distinct bright crimson crown and belly. On the second occasion it was seen hopping on the ground in very poor light; the crimson cap and nape stood out brightly, the rest of the body appearing dark brownish-purple, the crimson abdomen and undertail coverts being seen only when it flitted away. On the third occasion it was seen only as a flash of deep purple as it hurriedly flew low across an open track; the open crossing seemed to be much disliked.

There is one previous sight record of this Malaysian species in Southern Thailand, by Deignan in Trang (personal communication E.C. Dickinson). The bird is also known from Tenasserim in Burma (SMYTHIES, 1953).

PACIFIC SWALLOW (*Hirundo tahitica*)

Not widespread in the settlements owing to a lack of suitable breeding areas. On August 1 they were present and probably breeding with Red-rumped Swallows under the Pattani bridge south of Bannang Sata.

HOUSE SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

The first arrivals in the settlements were seen on August 31, after which they became common generally over the southern provinces.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW (*Hirundo daurica*)

The chestnut underparts of the resident bird of the southern provinces, *H.d. badia*, a Malaysian resident bird, distinguish it from the migratory pale and usually streaked races. The resident bird is very common near the limestone cliffs of Yala province, sometimes extending into granite hills along the border with Narathiwat province. Colleagues earlier reported it to be common in the limestone areas of Satun province (for example at Thung Wa). Nests were seen on August 1 beneath the bridge over the Pattani river south of Bannang Sata. The nests were built flat against a roof, not in a corner, and were characterised by their large size and entrance chambers. In July and September large numbers were seen flying in and out of the limestone caves of Wat Tham, near Yala town, although no nests could be discerned in the dark recesses among the variety of mud and limestone structures present.

BAR-WINGED FLYCATCHER SHRIKE (*Hemipus picatus*)

Common in all areas, including Satun, typically in forest margins.

BLACK-WINGED FLYCATCHER SHRIKE (*Hemipus hirundinaceus*)

Apparently uncommon, with only two records, from Prinyor and Tharnto in September.

GREATER WOOD SHRIKE (*Tephrodornis virgatus*)

Common, probably in all areas, in forest margins, more often heard than seen.

SCARLET MINIVET (*Pericrocotus flammeus*)

Common in all areas. It is probable that some of these were the Small Minivet (*P. cinnamomeus igneus*, known in Malaysia as the Fiery Minivet), but satisfactory views of the rump of the females were not obtained, only the undertail coverts being seen as orange, not yellow.

GREEN IORA (*Aegithina viridissima*)

The majority of ioras identified were of this species, which is common in forest, old rubber and similar habitats.

IORA (*Aegithina tiphia*)

Identified twice, at Prinyor and in the Satun area, but probably overlooked.

LESSER GREEN LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*)

Several identified in forest areas in Yala and Prinyor and probably common in all areas.

GRRATER GREEN LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis sonnerati*)

Identified once, at Prinyor. These two leafbirds are difficult to differentiate, but this species is less common than the others described here.

BLUE-WINGED LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*)

Probably common in forest in all areas.

STRAW-CROWNED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*)

Not seen but the loud, stereotyped warbling song was heard occasionally, usually near rivers, in Yala and Narathiwat. Like many of this genus, they were more often seen in cages than in the wild.

BLUE-EYED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus atriceps*)

Perhaps the commonest bulbul, certainly the most obtrusive, in forest margin areas. It has a frequently uttered, attractive though stereotyped song. The yellow bar near the tip of the tail is a striking identifying feature.

BLACK-CRESTED YELLOW BULBUL (*Pycnonotus melanipectus*)

Like the previous species, this is a bird of forest margins; it is much less common although several were seen in cages.

SCALY-BREASTED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus squamatus*)

Moderately common in forest and forest margins.

GREY-BELLIED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus cyaniventris*)

Moderately common in forest and forest margins.

RED-WHISKERED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)

This species was never seen in the wild state in the settlements in question, though it was common in the Satun area.

PUFF-BACKED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus eutilotus*)

Identified at Prinyor and Narathiwat. This is one of the more non-descript forest bulbuls, but it attracts attention with its characteristic sweet, liquid cadence "swilili swilili swilili".

STREAKED-FACED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus finlaysoni*)

Moderately common in forest margins and secondary growth.

YELLOW-VENTED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus goiavier*)

Locally common, only in open terrain.

WHITE-EYED BROWN BULBUL (*Pycnonotus simplex*)

Occasionally seen in forest or old rubber but probably overlooked.

RED-EYED BROWN BULBUL (*Pycnonotus brunneus*)

This is probably a common forest bird but is very difficult to separate from *P. erythrophthalmos*.

HAIRY-BACKED BULBUL (*Hypsipetes criniger*)

One identified in forest at Prinyor. The large black eye set in a yellow face is distinctive. The hairs on the back are generally not visible in the field.

CRESTED OLIVE BULBUL (*Hypsipetes charlottae*)

A few identified in forest margins at Prinyor. The crest is usually seen as a series of slightly upstanding longitudinal streaks on the dark brown crown.

GREEN-BACKED BULBUL (*Hypsipetes malaccensis*)

One identified at about 450 metres elevation in Prinyor.

BROWN-EARED BULBUL (*Hypsipetes flavala*)

A few identified at Yala, in forest above 500 metres.

BRONZE DRONGO (*Dicrurus aeneus*)

One identified in a bird-wave in Narathiwat in October, and a party of six drongos believed to be of this species seen flying south-east up a valley in Prinyor on September 13, presumably on migration. Possibly *D.a. malayensis* occurs as a resident.

GREATER RACQUET-TAILED DRONGO (*Dicrurus paradisens*)

Moderately common in all areas, in forest and old rubber.

MALAYSIAN BLACK-HEADED ORIOLE (*Oriolus xanthonotus*)

Common in all areas, in forest and sometimes old rubber.

FAIRY BLUEBIRD (*Irena puella*)

Moderately common, but tends to be overlooked.

BLACK-CRESTED PIE (*Platysmurus leucopterus*)

Comparatively few records and evidently rather local. It is significant that the Crested Malaysian Jay (*Platylophus galericulatus*) was never encountered, although its call is known to the author.

[SLENDER-BILLED CROW (*Corvus enca*)

Crows were heard commonly deep in the forests of all areas. One or two were seen coming out into open terrain at Prinyor and Narathiwat, but these were not seen clearly. Otherwise these crows were shy birds of the forest, quite unlike the Jungle Crow (*C. macrorhynchos*) in its habits. The latter species was never certainly seen in the settlements, although it occurs in the adjacent plains.

The call note too was somewhat higher-pitched and less full in tone than that of *C. macrorhynchos*, and very similar to the crows heard by the author in Brunei, where *C. enca* is the only species likely to be encountered.

The evidence strongly supports the presence of *C. enca* in the sub-montane forests of Narathiwat and Yala provinces, but confirmation is required. It is believed to be a common bird; crows were heard in five localities on a walk of 3 kilometres, close to the Malayan frontier in Narathiwat].

SULTAN TIT (*Melanochlora sultanea*)

Moderately common in forest or forest margins in all areas, generally in pairs or small parties.

VELVET-FRONTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta frontalis*)

Seen in forest in Prinyor and Narathiwat, as well as in the Satun area. It is likely to be common but overlooked.

SPOTTED BABBLER (*Pellorneum ruficeps*)

Common in secondary growth. The remarkable song was heard far more frequently than the "pretty dear" call note.

BLACK-CAPPED BABBLER (*Pellorneum capistratum*)

Moderately common, with several records from Yala and Prinyor, in forest, old rubber and old secondary growth.

SHORT-TAILED BABBLER (*Trichastoma malaccense*)

Common in forest and old growth in all areas, although few sight records.

[BLYTH'S BABBLER (*Trichastoma rostratum*)

Although never seen in Thailand, the author is familiar with the song of this babbler from southern Malaya. The song was heard clearly near a forest stream in Narathiwat; on other occasions it was not always readily distinguishable from the song of *T. abbotti*].

FERRUGINOUS BABBLER (*Trichastoma bicolor*)

Apparently uncommon, with only one record of a party in forest at Prinyor. However, as with all the babblers, they are overlooked unless in voice. This party was in full voice, which served to confirm identification. The author is not acquainted with *T. sepia-rum* which probably occurs also.

ABBOTT'S BABBLER (*Trichastoma abbotti*)

Although never seen, the song was heard commonly in all areas, generally in old secondary growth or mixed rubber, near streams.

GREATER RED-HEADED TREE BABBLER (*Malacopteron magnum*)

The scarcity of babblers of genus *Malacopteron* was surprising, although it is possible that they were not in song during the season of observation. There were just two sight records of silent birds of this species from Narathiwat in October.

LESSER RED-HEADED TREE BABBLER (*Malacopteron cinereum*)

Two records only, from Prinyor and Narathiwat in September and October. On the first occasion they were seen in song, on the second they were only heard. As with most babblers, the songs once known are a more reliable guide to identification than a sighting in typical forest conditions.

[BROWN-HEADED TREE BABBLER (*Malacopteron magnirostre*)

This is one of the more difficult species of the group regarding both voice and sight identification. Although suspected on several occasions it could never be confirmed. *M. affine*, one of whose songs is absolutely diagnostic, was never encountered].

LARGE-FOOTED WREN BABBLER (*Napothera macrodactyla*)

Three records, two being sight records (of birds in song) and one voice record, from Yala, Prinyor and the Satun area. This bird has a loud and readily recognisable song, and although the song is not always easy to imitate, the bird is usually readily whistled in.

HUME'S BABBLER (*Stachyris rufifrons*)

Common. This bird was heard more frequently than any of the forest babblers, in all areas, in forest and even old rubber. The song is distinctive and easy to imitate. However, it was not until October that a good confirmatory view was obtained, of several singing birds in a bird-wave at Narathiwat. Recent work in Malaya (TEESDALE, 1972) has revealed that this species is common there at least locally, both in lowlands and foothills.

GREY-HEADED BABBLER (*Stachyris paliocephala*)

Several voice records and one confirmatory sighting, from forest in all areas.

RED-RUMPED BABBLER (*Stachyris maculata*)

The unmistakable song of this babbler was heard on two occasions only, in Yala and Prinyor, in hilly forest. Only a few phrases were heard on both occasions. There was one unconfirmed sighting from Narathiwat.

BLACK-NECKED BABBLER (*Stachyris nigricollis*)

A few records of parties in both forest and mixed rubber in Prinyor. This bird can be readily whistled in to give close views.

RED-WINGED BABBLER (*Stachyris erythroptera*)

Moderately common in all areas, typically in secondary growth on forest margins.

YELLOW-BREASTED TIT BABBLER (*Macronus gularis*)

A very common bird in secondary growth in all areas.

FLUFFY-BACKED TIT BABBLER (*Macronus pilosus*)

Evidently not very common, with only half-a-dozen records, from secondary growth or mixed rubber in all areas. The fluffy back is not always apparent in the field,

[GREY-EYED NUN BABBLER (*Alcippe poioicephala*)

Never confirmed with a sight record, but heard quite commonly in all areas].

RAIL BABBLER (*Eupetes macrocerus*)

Two records, one sighting and one voice only. The first was at Prinyor at mid-morning on August 29, in a patch of old jungle at 200 metres, with a few original forest trees and much secondary regeneration, though the undergrowth was not dense generally. The call was first heard at very close range, but it took some forty minutes of imitation and stealth before a brief view was obtained. The bird covered quite a distance on the ground circling around the original site, and with ventriloquial effects it was very difficult to track down. It was finally seen at very close range, when its large size, long neck and tail and rich brown plumage, brighter on the head, were striking. The long white supercilium extending down the neck was clearly seen, above a narrow black stripe, but the naked blue skin was not noticed.

The call, known previously from southern Malaya, superficially resembles that of the Garnet Pitta, being a monosyllabic long-drawn whistle of even pitch of two seconds duration. It differs from the pitta in being higher-pitched, in lacking the sharp start and end to the call, and although it can be slightly piercing at very close range, it lacks the pitta's sharp timbre, and is also uttered with greater frequency and regularity (about 5-10 seconds). Like the pitta, the call carries long distances. The pitch can vary slightly between calls. It must be stressed that the difference between the Rail Babbler and Garnet Pitta calls is only clear to the practised ear.

The second bird was heard, also at mid-morning, deep in forest in undulating terrain close to the Malayan border in Narathiwat settlement on October 19,

MAGPIE-ROBIN (*Copsychus saularis*)

Very common in settled terrain and forest margins in all areas.

SHAMA (*Copsychus malabaricus*)

Common in forest and forest margins in all areas.

RED-CAPPED FORKTAIL (*Enicurus ruficapillus*)

Common in rocky streams in hilly forest in Yala and Prinyor, sometimes straying along adjacent logging tracks.

MANGROVE WARBLER (*Gerygone fusca*)

Heard commonly at Yala and Prinyor. This name is misleading as the bird is equally at home in both forest and rubber far from the coast. It is also present in the casuarinas on Songkhla beach.

BLACK-THROATED TAILOR BIRD (*Orthotomus atrogularis*)

Common in a variety of habitats. The only species identified but others may well have been overlooked.

RUFESCENT PRINIA (*Prinia rufescens*)

Common in open terrain. The crown and nape are more grey than shown in the illustration in LEKAGUL (1968).

YELLOW-BELLIED PRINIA (*Prinia flaviventris*)

Common in grassland and young scrub growth.

WHITE-THROATED JUNGLE FLYCATCHER (*Rhinomyias umbratilis*)

The author is familiar with this bird from southern Malaya, and although a confirmatory view was never obtained, the song was heard commonly in Kuelong, generally in old rubber, up to August. The distinctive song is weak, high-pitched and of low volume, but carries well. It consists of very variable phrases of between three and six notes. The first note is longer than the others, slightly accentuated, and may be a little higher-pitched. This may be followed by a momentary pause, and the sequence of pitch and speed of the remaining notes varies between each phrase, but it commonly falls in a little cadence or runs up and down the scale. The individual notes are sometimes uttered precisely and at other times slurred together. The song can be likened to that of

Gerygone fusca in tone but is not trilled. Each phrase lasts about $1\frac{1}{2}$ seconds, and about three phrases are given every 10 seconds. The bird commonly sings for prolonged periods. A low "tchk-tchk" is sometimes uttered between phrases, accompanied by a flick of the tail.

VERDITER FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa thalassina*)

A few records from forest margin sites in Yala.

NARCISSUS FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa narcissina*)

Single male birds were seen on September 7 and 8, at localities about 10 kilometres apart, on both occasions in a bird-wave in open secondary growth. Prior to reference to the literature, the eye-brows were noted to be pale yellow, meeting on the forehead and also contiguous in front of the eyes with the yellow throat. The rump was a pale yellow and only conspicuous in flight. The white patch in the wing was not at all conspicuous. The underparts were a rather deep, bright yellow, becoming paler on the undertail coverts. The yellow supercilium serves to identify the bird from the commoner *M. xanthopygia*, although the author is not familiar with the latter species.

GREY-HEADED FLYCATCHER (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*)

Common in forest in all areas. Once a pair was seen in old rubber, persistently perching vertically on the tree trunks, presumably searching for insects although this was not apparent.

CHESTNUT-WINGED FLYCATCHER (*Philentoma pyrhopterum*)

Two records only, from forest in Yala and Prinyor.

BLACK-NAPED BLUE MONARCH (*Hypothymis azurea*)

Moderately common in all areas.

PARADISE FLYCATCHER (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)

Not very common but present in all areas, including Satun.

GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla caspica*)

First recorded on August 29, subsequently becoming moderately common, in suitable terrain such as bulldozed clearings in hilly terrain.

PADDYFIELD PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

Present in suitable terrain, such as grazing land in Tharnto and Narathiwat.

BROWN SHRIKE (*Lanius cristatus*)

Common in open areas from September 12 onwards (and common generally in the southern provinces in October).

THICK-BILLED SHRIKE (*Lanius tigrinus*)

One seen in thick scrub close to hill forest in Prinyor on September 6.

SHINING STARLING (*Aplonis panayensis*)

Apparently not common in the settlements where there is little suitable terrain. Few records.

BROWN MYNA (*Sturnus tristis*)

Present but not common in the settlements.

GRACKLE (*Gracula religiosa*)

Moderately common in all areas. The race in the south is larger than that in Khao Yai, with rather louder and lower pitched calls.

RUBYCHEEK (*Anthreptes singalensis*)

Sunbirds were not as common as might be expected, and only this species was identified quite commonly, in all areas.

SCARLET SUNBIRD (*Aethopyga mystacalis*)

One confirmed and one probable record, at Yala and Prinyor, in forest at 450 metres.

LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER (*Arachnothera longirostra*)

Only this spiderhunter was confirmed, and is common in all areas.

YELLOW-THROATED FLOWERPECKER (*Prionochilus maculatus*)

One seen in lowland forest in Yala.

CRIMSON-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER (*Prionochilus percussus*)

A few records in forest margins in Yala and Prinyor.

YELLOW-VENTED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum chrysorrheum*)

One record from old rubber in Yala.

ORANGE-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum trigonostigma*)

Two records, from Yala and Narathiwat. Immature bird being fed on July 7.

SCARLET-BACKED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum cruentatum*)

Several records from secondary growth etc. (and seen also in Songkhla town).

WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops* sp.)

Parties seen in both hill forest and old rubber in Yala and possibly much overlooked. Not specifically identified.

[TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*)

Not recorded in the settlements although the author may be guilty of overlooking this species].

PIN-TAILED PARROT-FINCH (*Erythrura prasina*)

A party of 5 to 10 birds of both sexes, close to the Malayan border in Narathiwat settlement on October 18. Seen in thick bushes beside a swampy stream in logged forest.

WHITE-RUMPED MUNIA (*Lonchura striata*)

The commonest member of the group, in parties in open terrain in all areas.

WHITE-BELLIED MUNIA (*Lonchura leucogastra*)

One record only, on edge of hill forest in Yala in June.

WHITE-HEADED MUNIA (*Lonchura maja*)

Seen only at Tharnto, the other settlements being generally unsuited to this species.

APPENDIX

Some sightings from outside the settlement schemes, from the plains in Satun, Songkhla, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat Provinces.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

A party of 16 in rice fields near Narathiwat town on October 20.

REEF EGRET (*Egretta sacra*)

A solitary white phase bird on the mudflats at Pattani on October 20.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE (*Elanus caeruleus*)

A few records only: single birds at Songkhla on October 7 and near Satun on October 9, and on the outskirts of Haadyai on October 24th. A colleague reported a flock of five (a family party?) in a tree near Thung Wa in Satun province in early March.

BLACK KITE (*Milvus* sp.)

A party of 4 over Songkhla beach on October 1. Black kites were one component of two parties of migrating raptors, each holding 20 to 40 soaring birds, seen on October 9, near Trang and east of Satun. Regrettably the other species could not be identified although many were believed to be Crested Honey-Buzzards (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*)

BRAHMINY KITE (*Haliastur indus*)

Present along the coast at Songkhla and Pattani and over ricefields, sometimes nearly as far inland as Yala.

WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

One over mangroves north of Satun on October 9.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius dubius*)

Common on the mudflats at Pattani on October 20.

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)

One flying south over Songkhla beach on October 5. Two on the beach north of Songkhla on October 7.

REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*)

One at Songkhla beach on August 13,

MARSH SANDPIPER (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

Several on the mudflats at Pattani on October 20, identified by their similarity to but smaller size than the Greenshanks with which they were associating.

GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*)

A flock of about 50 on the mudflats at Pattani on October 20.

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

First seen on Songkhla beach on August 15, subsequently becoming quite common.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE (*Glareola maldivarum*)

Seen commonly over the fallow rice fields around Songkhla up to mid-July.

MARSH TERN (*Chlidonias* sp.)

A party of marsh terns, probably *C. leucopterus*, seen on the mudflats at Pattani on October 20. Many distant, unidentified terns were also present.

BLACK-NAPED TERN (*Sterna sumatrana*)

Three, occasionally more, were seen commonly off the beach at Songkhla.

BLACK-CAPPED KINGFISHER (*Halcyon pileata*)

Two were seen on the mudflats at Pattani on October 20, presumably the first arrivals.

WHITE-COLLARED KINGFISHER (*Halcyon chloris*)

Seen only around Pattani, where quite common. The absence of this bird on the beaches at Narathiwat and Songkhla towns is surprising.

BLACK-BILLED ROLLER (*Coracias benghalensis*)

Present but not very common, in open country in the Songkhla-Haadyai area, south to near Yala, with records in most months. Some four individuals seen in the Pattani area on October 20, where none were seen nine days previously, is indicative of a small southward passage in this month.

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